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Heroes in the Global War on Terror

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Bowling Green, Ky.
Silver Star recipient

Kentucky Army National Guard Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester

Sgt. Hester's squad was following a supply convoy on March 20, 2005, in Iraq when insurgents ambushed the convoy. Her squad quickly moved into position, cutting off the enemy's escape route. Hester led her team directly into the line of fire into a flanking position, and then began an assault on a trench line. She and her squad leader cleared two trenches. When the attack was over, 27 insurgents were dead, six were wounded, and one was captured. In June 2005, Hester was the first woman soldier since World War II to be awarded the Silver Star Medal. AFPS [story](#).



Jacksonville, N.C.
Bronze Star recipient

Marine 1st Lt. Alfred L. Butler IV

1st Lt. Butler and his team were conducting operations in Fallujah, Iraq, on Dec. 23, 2004, when insurgents ambushed his platoon. Butler raced to the attack where several men in a house were taking heavy automatic weapons fire. He evacuated the men from a house under intense fire, and then organized an assault force to confront the insurgents who were pinning down additional men on the second floor. Jumping roof to roof, Butler and his team cleared two buildings under fire to retrieve the other men. Butler disregarded his own safety and shielded the bodies of fallen Marines when a grenade landed nearby. For his actions, Butler was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device for his actions. "Face of Defense" [story](#).



Norfolk, Va.
Bronze Star recipient

Navy Lt. Cmdr. Benito E. Baylosis

Volunteering for a year-long tour in Iraq in July 2005, Lt. Cmdr. Baylosis led a team of electronic engineers and technicians that analyzed 5,500 improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Baylosis personally handled more than 1,000 roadside bomb detonators and provided critical countermeasures. His team studied the electronic circuiting of the enemy's homemade bombs and how they were rigged to explode when Coalition and Iraqi troops were nearby. Baylosis, a leading expert of IED initiators, also developed and examined more than 136 bomb-maker profiles. For his critical work on IEDs that likely saved numerous Coalition lives, Baylosis was awarded the Bronze Star in August 2006.

For more information on the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces, please visit the ["Face of Defense"](#) link on the DoD homepage.

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